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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/105 of 20 December 1993, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, emphasized the unique function of the Institute as the only entity within the United Nations system devoted exclusively to research and training for the integration of women in development, and stressed the importance of making its research findings available for policy purposes and for operational activities; commended the Institute for its efforts to focus on problems that constitute barriers to improving the status of women and thus impede overall development and progress; urged the Institute to continue to strengthen its activities in the areas of research, training and information aimed at mainstreaming gender in development strategies and giving women greater visibility by valuating their contribution to social and economic development as important means of empowering women and improving their status; requested the Institute to assist with the substantive preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, given its key role in the areas of research and training and its expertise in gender statistics; and expressed its appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Institute to strengthen its programmatic linkages with other United Nations organizations, including the regional commissions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other organizations and groups, thereby broadening the scope of its operations, making optimum use of its limited financial resources and attaining a greater outreach and impact of its work.

3. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General on INSTRAW (A/48/301), other resolutions have been adopted that have implications for the Institute's work programme. In its resolution 48/111 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 a report on the proposed merger of INSTRAW and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and requested the Council to submit its final recommendation to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session. At that session, the Assembly, in its resolution 49/160 of 23 December 1994, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, through the Advisory Committee, an updated report; requested the Council to re-examine the issue at a resumed session to take place after the Fourth World Conference on Women and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered the item on the advancement of women; and decided to take a final decision at its fiftieth session on the proposed merger of INSTRAW and UNIFEM, taking into account the recommendations made by the Council and the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session and of the Fourth World Conference on Women concerning the institutional arrangements in the United Nations system for the advancement of women.

4. In accordance with its mandate and the recommendations of its Board of Trustees, the Institute has made every effort to strengthen its research, training, information and advocacy role in key areas affecting the advancement of women, and in facilitating their empowerment and inclusion as equal partners in development.

II. PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

5. The Institute viewed the biennium 1994-1995 as a time of assessment of past and current activities and intensification of efforts to bring to fruition the agenda set for the advancement of women in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 1/ and assist in ensuring that the political, economic, social and cultural dimensions of this agenda would be furthered at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

6. Bearing in mind INSTRAW's mandate, 2/ which is "to serve as a vehicle on the international level for the purpose of undertaking research and establishing training programmes to contribute to the integration and mobilization of women in development, to raise awareness of women's issues world wide and better to assist women to meet new challenges and directions", INSTRAW's work programme for the biennium 1994-1995 was structured towards the specific objectives set for the Conference as well as towards clarifying the strong relationship that exists between the advancement of women and sustainable development. That relationship is based on the premise that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the full and active participation of women.

7. The need to understand and correct the societal obstacles that constrain their participation and to recognize fully, value and mobilize women's dynamic involvement in the development process, forms the conceptual framework for the work of INSTRAW. Overcoming these obstacles requires a comprehensive

empowerment process, which in turn is an essential prerequisite to the implementation of equitable sustainable development.

8. The period following the United Nations Decade for Women, Equality, Development and Peace, 1975-1984, has witnessed fundamental changes in and a broadening of the understanding of issues related to women in development. Research and experience since the Nairobi Conference clearly demonstrate that the role of women in development must be considered within the broader context of gender relations in society, the State and the economy. This broadening of perspective also implies that desired changes in the status of women are inevitably tied to the reorganization of gender relations in the household, the community and the nation. It also implies a dynamic role for women in shaping the course of development and influencing the decisions and processes that affect their lives, rather than a static notion of development into which women need to be integrated.

9. This change in perception is central to the work of the United Nations development agencies. Research has shown that the contribution of women is crucial to the attainment of development objectives and their exclusion is costly and detrimental to the process of sustainable development. Research in this area needs to be pursued through further studies on issues such as valuing women's unpaid work and related time-use studies. The results of those studies must be disseminated to national and international policy makers.

10. Further research and analyses are required to challenge the entrenched belief that equality and efficiency are mutually exclusive, that there must be a trade-off among those objectives and that investment in women is an economic burden that reduces the efficiency of the economy, and to advance the argument that investment in women enhances economic performance and directly contributes to poverty alleviation and balanced socio-economic development.

11. It is within this conceptual framework that INSTRAW has developed its research programme on the linkages between changes in the status of women and the achievement of equitable sustainable development goals.

12. In its training efforts, INSTRAW has developed models for the effective transfer of the knowledge gained through research and study to various groups that can influence the course of development, especially women from all walks of life and at all levels. Access to knowledge and information is empowerment; INSTRAW considers its training and communication activities as part of the empowerment process to help women and men to change and reorganize gender relations for mutual benefit.

III. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INSTITUTE'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

13. The Institute's programme for the biennium 1994-1995 was built around three broad themes: empowerment of women; statistics and indicators on gender issues; and women, environment and sustainable development.

A. Empowerment of women

14. As listed above, experimental evidence and analysis shows that women's economic and political empowerment is a crucial prerequisite for sustainable development.

15. Individual or collective empowerment is based essentially on access to, ownership of and control over economic resources. These are, in turn, basic factors to allow full participation in processes to advance these objectives and need to be analysed in relation to the formal sector as well as the informal sector and the conditions prevailing in transition economies.

1. Gender impact analysis of credit projects

16. Under this programme element a publication on women and credit was prepared for presentation at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Credit for Women - Why is it so important? 3/ presents a global overview of a variety of credit schemes for the rural and the urban poor designed to overcome the constraints that the poor, particularly poor women, face in having access to institutionalized financial schemes and to facilitate their access to financial resources. This study covers schemes at the design stage as well as schemes that are under implementation in different countries. The study was published under the joint authority of INSTRAW and the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW).

17. A case study on gender impact analysis of credit projects will be finalized by late 1995. The Dominican Association for the Development of Microentrepreneurs, which is an internationally acknowledged micro-finance institution delivering credit to women and men micro-entrepreneurs in the Dominican Republic, was contracted by INSTRAW to carry out a survey among its clients. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also collaborated in the design of the survey. The data from the survey are being analysed by INSTRAW and a final report on the survey will be prepared in collaboration with the Economic Research Unit of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

18. During the biennium under review, INSTRAW participated in numerous meetings relevant to the credit projects, which permitted the exchange of expertise, information and experience between INSTRAW and other concerned regional and international organizations.

2. Training on gender issues

19. INSTRAW has received numerous requests for training workshops on gender issues, particularly from national agencies, local organizations and international development agencies located in the Dominican Republic. During the present biennium, training workshops or seminars have been held together with the Directorate General for the Advancement of Women, Women in Development, a local organization that carries out development projects with women in rural areas and ENTRENA, Inc., also a local organization that oversees non-governmental organizations receiving project funds from USAID. Subjects covered included gender and development, addressed to local trade-union leaders; women and rural development; gender and domestic violence; and gender and women's human rights, with the participation of women and men police officers. Plans are under way to hold a workshop on gender issues to train personnel from all United Nations agencies with offices in the Dominican Republic.

20. INSTRAW continues to receive several requests for training workshops on gender analysis from government agencies, academic centres and non-governmental organizations, particularly from Central America and the Caribbean region, as well as United Nations agencies in the subregion.

B. Statistics and indicators on gender issues

21. Adequate and reliable statistics are basic requirements for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes and projects as well as for resource allocation. INSTRAW's programme on gender statistics and indicators is aimed at improving data collection and statistical methods, and at developing new concepts and methodologies that can better reflect present working and living conditions based on today's political, economic, technological, cultural and social realities, particularly as they affect women, incorporating such variables as the impact of market fluctuations, economic recession, jobs and employment contraction.

1. Methods for valuing the contribution of women

22. Outputs of phase I of this programme element resulted in the publication of a monograph entitled "Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting Through Time and Output". 4/ The monograph was issued as a sales publication and was available at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The monograph addressed three major issues, namely: (a) development of improved data-collection techniques for capturing and measuring paid and unpaid contribution of both women and men; (b) development of imputation techniques to value unpaid work; and (c) inclusion of household production in the United Nations System of National Accounts through satellite accounts.

23. Highlights and conclusions of this study were presented at an intergovernmental work session of statisticians for the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region, which was held from 6 to 8 March 1995. Participants recognized the value of this publication as a basis for the eventual development

of international guidelines, norms and techniques for defining, measuring and valuing "satellite accounts" for household production.

24. On the basis of the recommendations in the monograph, INSTRAW has initiated the second phase of the project on the revaluing techniques and methodologies developed in several countries, including Nepal, Canada, Hungary and Finland. Results of these exercises will be consolidated and published as a complementary document to the original monograph.

25. INSTRAW and the National Statistics Office of the Dominican Republic are currently collaborating in the conduct of a national survey on time use of women and men in the Dominican Republic. This is a follow-up to the pilot survey conducted in 1993 in five small communities in the country. The survey is expected to be concluded in late 1995 and will be followed by training of team leaders and surveyors, thus promoting local capacity-building.

2. Contribution to the second edition of the World's Women Publication and the 1995 Human Development Report

26. At the invitation of the Statistical Division of the United Nations Secretariat (UNSTAT) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), INSTRAW participated in the preparatory work for the second edition of The World's Women and the 1995 Human Development Report, respectively. In addition to the financial contribution provided by INSTRAW for The World's Women, through which INSTRAW became one of the major sponsors of the publication, the Institute has also contributed substantively. As for the 1995 Human Development Report, INSTRAW's contribution has concentrated on substantive areas, such as valuing women's work. The Institute's participation in the meetings was financed by UNDP.

3. Subregional workshop on statistics and indicators on women in Asia

27. In collaboration with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, INSTRAW organized and conducted a workshop at Osaka and Tokyo from 8 to 25 March 1994. The workshop was designed as a follow-up to the six national workshops that INSTRAW had conducted in the region since 1985, and focused on a review of the set of indicators recommended by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat to countries for the preparation of their national reports for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

28. Within the framework of the workshop, a public session was held where participants were requested to make a general presentation on gender statistics from their respective countries. The session was attended by local experts, researchers and government officials, among others. INSTRAW presented two papers, one of which addressed the importance of gender statistics for policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and the other provided information on the programmes and activities of the Institute in the area of gender statistics.

4. Development of training materials on gender statistics and policy

29. In consultation with UNSTAT and UNIFEM, INSTRAW is working on the development of a training package on gender statistics in development planning, to provide development planners with statistical and other tools to enhance their capacity to relate gender statistics, policy targets and resource allocation. As part of this activity, INSTRAW carried out a mission to Nairobi in October 1994 to review the results of a project in this area being implemented by the Women's Bureau in Kenya, in collaboration with UNSTAT. The mission confirmed the need for and served to orient the further development of the training package, which is expected to be completed in late 1995.

30. Since 1990, INSTRAW has been working at the development of a new conceptual framework for collecting and analysing data on elderly women. The INSTRAW publication entitled "The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators", 5/ aimed at promoting the further development and use of statistics and indicators in order better to understand the situation, problems and constraints that older people are facing in both industrialized and developing societies, was taken note of with appreciation by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/162 of 23 December 1994. It was reprinted in 1995. This work, in which INSTRAW has collaborated with UNSTAT, will be further developed. In its resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, the Assembly proclaimed 1999 the International Year of Older Persons.

5. INSTRAW/ECE joint work session on statistics on women

31. The INSTRAW/ECE joint work session on gender statistics was held at Geneva from 6 to 8 March 1995, as approved by the Conference of European Statisticians. This session was the fifth in a series of joint meetings/sessions undertaken since 1985 by INSTRAW and ECE, in collaboration with UNSTAT. It provides the only occasion for intergovernmental consultations and discussions on gender statistics in the region. The importance of maintaining and continuing such a joint activity was recognized in the recommendations of the Regional Platform for Action, adopted by the High-level Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Vienna from 17 to 21 November 1994.

32. Another joint INSTRAW/ECE session will be held in 1997/98 to consider the gender dimensions of the following topics:

(a) Economic well-being, career mobility over the course of life, poverty, private and public financial transfers and equal pay for work of equal value;

(b) Caring activities: who cares for whom over the life course, recognition of caring activities;

(c) Unpaid work: developments in the measurement of unpaid work and its inclusion in satellite account systems;

(d) Progress in the statistical measurement of violence and crime.

6. Participation in the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission and regional conferences of statisticians

33. At the invitation of ECE, INSTRAW participated at the forty-second plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, held in Paris from 12 to 16 June 1994. Primarily, INSTRAW's participation was aimed at the further development of regional gender statistics in the work of the Conference, taking into account the needs for assistance in this area of countries with economies in transition.

34. Strong interest was expressed by all participants in further expansion of gender statistics. It was recommended that INSTRAW, in close collaboration with ECE, organize a subregional workshop on gender statistics specifically designed for countries with economies in transition. This proposal will be submitted by ECE to the Conference at its next plenary session.

35. During the period under review, INSTRAW also participated in the following meetings addressing issues relevant to the development of gender statistics: the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission (New York, 27 February-3 March 1995); the ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (Bangkok, 28 November-2 December 1994); the twenty-third General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (Brunswick, Canada, 21-27 August 1994); and the Nihon University International Symposium on Work and Family Life of International Migrant Workers at the University Research Centre, Nihon University (Tokyo, 5-8 December 1994).

C. Women, environment and sustainable development

36. The emergence of sustainability as a development criterion, and new insights on linkages between population growth, environment and development will demand adaptation and new approaches to natural resources management, including the provision of reliable energy services and clean water supply and food security and the extension of social services to attend to the basic needs of more than one billion people living in extreme poverty.

37. These are some of the considerations underlying INSTRAW's cross-sectoral programme on women, environment and sustainable development, which constitutes one of the four main pillars of the Institute's research and training activities. Since 1982, INSTRAW has been carrying out research and training on water supply and sanitation, and the development of new and renewable sources of energy, in the perspective of the status of women and their contribution to socio-economic development.

1. First national training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation held in Guyana

38. In cooperation with Red Thread Women's Programme, a non-governmental organization in Guyana, INSTRAW conducted the first national training seminar on women, water supply and sanitation at Georgetown from 31 January to 4 February 1994. The seminar was conducted on the basis of a training package

developed jointly by INSTRAW, the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ILO). A new modular unit on women and waste management was tested during the seminar. The seminar involved 45 participants, including development planners, engineers, trainers and representatives from women's and non-governmental organizations.

2. National training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation held in Ecuador

39. INSTRAW conducted a national training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation at Quito from 27 June to 1 July 1994. The workshop was carried out in collaboration with UNDP, the Ecuadorian Research and Training Institute for Women, INSTRAW's focal point in Ecuador, and the USAID Regional Housing and Urban Development Office in Ecuador, which provided additional funds. The workshop used the Spanish version of INSTRAW's modules on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation.

40. In order to ensure that the workshop would have a multiplier effect, INSTRAW, in cooperation with the Ecuadorian Research and Training Institute for Women and with the financial support of UNDP, arranged for participants at the workshop to conduct additional workshops aimed at different target groups and community leaders in different provinces of the country. A total of 155 persons (mostly women) from five provinces were trained utilizing INSTRAW's training modules, which were summarized in the local languages.

3. National training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation held in Namibia

41. INSTRAW conducted a national training workshop on women, water supply and sanitation at Windhoek from 20 to 25 November 1994. The seminar was organized in cooperation with Namibia's Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development, the Department for Development Support and Management Services and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation. It was based on the training package on women, water supply and sanitation referred to in paragraph 39 above. It was attended by 43 participants, including development planners, extensions and community development workers, training officers and representatives from various United Nations bodies and agencies.

42. A modular unit on women and waste management, tested during the workshop, endeavours to promote an integrated approach to environmental sanitation and stresses the importance of the full participation of women in these projects.

43. As follow-up to the national workshop, Namibia's Department of Water Affairs and the Ministry of Community Development expressed interest in the organization of two additional training workshops in the northern and southern regions of Namibia utilizing INSTRAW's training packages.

4. Modular training package on women, environmental management and sustainable development

44. INSTRAW, in cooperation with the International Training Centre of ILO, prepared a training package on women, environmental management and sustainable development. The training package has been developed for senior officials of ministries; development planners; engineers, university professors; and trainers, practitioners and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

45. The major aims of the training package are:

(a) To contribute to an integrated approach in the organization and management of environmental policies and programmes through the integration of women's needs and their participation;

(b) To increase the awareness of the need to involve women in planning, management, implementation and evaluation of environmental programmes and projects.

46. In addition to capacity-building programmes, the training package consists of four parts: women and environmental health; women as agents of change in the development sector; women as managers of the environment; and women, environmental indicators. The package is supplemented by a trainer's guide and colour transparencies to be used simultaneously with the training text and videos.

47. INSTRAW's contribution to sustainable development and environmental management included participation in a meeting of the Collaborative Council Group on Gender Issues (New York, 27 and 28 October 1994); the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 16-27 May 1994); the special session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development (New York, 6-17 February 1995); the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission (New York, 27 February-3 March 1995); and the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group on Finance of the Commission (New York, 6-9 March 1995).

48. INSTRAW participated in the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation, at the World Bank, Washington, D.C., on 19 and 20 September 1994, and the fifteenth session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Water Resources, at Washington D.C., from 21 to 23 October 1994.

49. The Steering Committee focused on inter alia monitoring progress in implementing the follow-up to Agenda 21; requirements for mid-decade reporting in 1995 to the General Assembly on the status of water supply and sanitation and developments since the last report; and the preparation for global conferences.

50. The Subcommittee focused on matters arising from the second session of the Committee on Natural Resources and the second session of the Commission of Sustainable Development; strengthening cooperation and coordination in the field of water resources; cooperation and coordination with organizations outside the system; monitoring and assessment of the freshwater resources of the world;

World Water Day; other issues requiring system-wide cooperation; Global Environment Facility; and other matters.

D. Special project on the development of communications materials for women and development

51. A project entitled "Development of Communications Materials for Women and Development" was initiated in 1991 with funds provided by the Government of Italy and carried out in collaboration with the Italian Association for Women in Development. It was completed in 1995.

52. The second phase of the project, completed during the period under review, involved actions aimed at:

(a) Enhancing the image of women in the mass media;

(b) Disseminating the research findings on the situation of women employed in the media;

(c) Enhancing the communications skills of women's non-governmental organizations;

(d) Bridging the gap between women's non-governmental organizations and mass media professionals;

(e) Sensitizing students on the gender bias in the media.

53. INSTRAW has prepared a synthesis paper of the project, which will be published in-house.

54. Outputs from individual countries participating in the project included the following:

(a) The Centre for Women's Studies, Argentina, a national women's non-governmental organization selected to carry out this project in Argentina, developed an ambitious plan of action called "Satelite Eva" which consisted of: the production in Spanish of five sets of documents for the press on issues such as human rights, political participation, reproductive rights and the media; a multimedia exhibit on women and communications; a training seminar presenting the major theoretical issues related to communications and women and development and aimed at developing guidelines for evaluating the image of women in television and advertising; workshops conducted with officials from the women's programme of the Ministry of Education; and the production of a book entitled Mujeres Comunicando Argentina: Inventario de Materiales de Comunicación Alternativos, which is an inventory of alternative media outputs on and by women;

(b) Cine Mujer in Colombia produced a 30-minute pilot television programme on prostitution in Colombia, containing testimonies, interviews and panel discussions moderated by a renowned woman reporter. The pilot programme was presented on Colombia regional television. An inventory of communications

materials on women and development available in Colombia was published in Spanish;

(c) The Centre for Women's Research and Action in the Dominican Republic produced a photographic portfolio illustrating various aspects of women in development and guidelines for group discussions on issues related to women and the media. An educational kit was produced, containing six booklets on topics such as: economy, sustainable development, health, legislation, international organizations and events, and communications. A book synthesizing the results of the diagnostic research conducted in the first phase of the project was published in Spanish.

E. Activities relating to the Fourth World Conference on Women

1. Preparatory conferences

55. INSTRAW participated in all five regional preparatory conferences to the Fourth World Conference on Women organized by the United Nations regional commissions in 1994. These included: the Second Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held at Jakarta, from 7 to 14 June 1994, organized by ESCAP; the Regional Preparatory Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Mar del Plata, Argentina, from 26 to 30 September 1994, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the High-Level Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, held at Vienna from 17 to 21 October 1994, organized by ECE; the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Amman, from 6 to 10 November 1994, organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); and the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women, held at Dakar from 16 to 23 November 1994, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). At each regional preparatory conference, INSTRAW presented a paper emphasizing areas where research, training, communication and information dissemination would be crucial for the implementation of the regional plans of actions and the platform for action to be adopted at the Conference. The Institute also called for stronger commitments to research on gender issues and expressed interest in continuing its collaboration and coordination with the regional commissions.

2. Inter-agency meetings

56. As part of its effort to disseminate its analysis and research findings is sharing them with all the concerned agencies within and outside the United Nations system, INSTRAW attended on a regular basis and provided substantive inputs to all ad hoc inter-agency meetings, on women organized under the aegis of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, organized by the Secretary-General of the Conference. INSTRAW prepared position papers for these meetings on the role of research and training for the advancement of women.

57. Other inter-agency meetings attended by INSTRAW included the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Rural Development, held in Rome from 11 to 13 May 1994.

3. Panels

58. INSTRAW organized the following panels for the NGO Forum on Women and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Time Use Statistics and Recognition of Women's and Men's Contribution, 31 August 1995, Huairou

59. The objectives of this panel were: (a) to identify further needs and data gaps in making women visible in statistics; (b) to discuss measures and techniques for capturing, measuring and valuing women's productive contributions to all aspects and sectors of development; and (c) to reflect better these contributions in national accounts and economic statistics. The panel was attended by experts in the field of statistics, development planners and scholars on gender issues, many of whom were in Beijing attending the fiftieth session of the International Statistical Institute. This panel was jointly organized by INSTRAW and UNSTAT, in cooperation with the Swedish International Development Agency.

60. At this panel, three new publications were presented, entitled "Time Use of Women in Europe and North America", joint study with ECE; "The Migration of Women, Methodological Issues in the Measurement and Analysis of Internal and International Migration"; and "Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting Through Time and Output".

Women, Water and Environmental Sanitation, 2 September 1995, Huairou

61. INSTRAW organized jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) a panel on Women, Water and Environmental Sanitation. The panel focused on the roles and problems of women in water supply and environmental sanitation projects, programmes and policies and overall water resource management in the various regions. Strategies in water and environmental sanitation to the year 2000 were discussed.

Economic and Political Empowerment of Women, 4 September 1995, Huairou

62. This panel focused on the complementarity of the two prongs of the empowerment of women - economic and political - from the perspective that empowerment requires a holistic approach. Emphasis was placed on women's access to financial resources and women's participation in policy and decision-making. The publication entitled "Credit for women, why is it so important?" (see para. 16 above) was launched.

Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach, 7 September 1995, Huairou

63. This panel provided an opportunity for mass media professionals and producers of women's alternative media to design new strategies for the use of media in sustainable development with regard to gender equity.

64. During the panel, INSTRAW's experiences in its project conducted in three Latin American countries on "Development of Communications Materials for Women in Development", and the INSTRAW booklet entitled "Content-Discontent: Towards a Fair Portrayal of Women in the Media", were presented.

4. Special events at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing

65. INSTRAW organized two special event panels for the official delegations to the Conference on 12 September 1995:

(a) The Women and Natural Resources Management panel focused on ways to enhance the role and participation of women in natural resources management. Topics discussed included: women and access to resources; disaster preparedness; women and new and renewable sources of energy; women and water supply; and women and environmental sciences;

(b) The Economic and Political Empowerment of Women and the Need for Gender Statistics panel focused on the economic and political empowerment of women as prerequisites for the full inclusion of women in the development process and the role of statistics and indicators.

5. Translation of publication

66. INSTRAW 1995, a general informative book about the Institute and its work, was translated into Chinese for distribution during the Conference, in compliance with a recommendation of INSTRAW's Board of Trustees. This is the first time material has been translated into Chinese. Translation into other official languages will depend on additional financial resources.

F. Activities for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

67. As part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, INSTRAW initiated in 1995 a series of colloquiums focusing on international days or on topics currently on the development agenda. The purpose of these colloquiums is to provide a forum for local organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, and research institutes, to discuss the role and participation of women in selected development issues, which can later be brought to the attention of authorities for appropriate action.

68. The first colloquium, held in June, focused on World Environment Day (5 June) and the International Day to Combat Drought and Desertification (17 June). The second, held in August, dealt with women's image in publicity, an issue which will be on the agenda of the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 1996. The next colloquium will centre on the International Day for the Reduction of Natural Disasters (11 October), of which the theme is "Women and children: priority in disaster mitigation". The papers presented on these occasions and the main recommendations resulting from the discussions will be part of a special commemorative publication.

69. INSTRAW is hosting a multimedia interactive exhibit as part of the global programme for the fiftieth anniversary. This exhibit was launched in San Francisco and has also been shown in cities around the world where there is a major United Nations presence. The Institute has received support from the UNDP office in Santo Domingo in hosting the exhibit, which will run for a period of six months to one year. Contents of the exhibit include a compact disc interactive (CDI) story entitled "Countdown to the Future", consisting of 13 modules with video footage of general information about the United Nations and its work and a video entitled "The World We Share".

G. Information, documentation and communication

70. The objectives of this programme are: to compile and process information on the role of women in development; to strengthen the channels for dissemination of information on women in development and on activities carried out by INSTRAW; to reinforce networking and liaison activities with organizations and institutions with interest in women's issues; and to develop appropriate communication support in order to facilitate access to information and communications systems by other bodies and organizations in the United Nations system and wherever possible to explore and develop new and more effective means of communicating information and ideas about the inclusion and the empowerment of women.

71. During the period under review, the internal printing facility of the Institute maintained its pace of production. Sixteen separate publications, including research studies, reports of training seminars, various Board documents (in three languages), four issues of INSTRAW News (in three languages) and a major public information publication, as well as flyers and brochures (three languages) were printed in-house (see annex to the present report). In addition, 15 forms or types of stationery were also printed.

72. As for the production of public information materials, there were two issues of INSTRAW News during 1994. The first dealt with women and the family and was part of the Institute's contribution to the International Year of the Family. The second covered the topic of time-use and drew on the INSTRAW research project on this topic. A special issue focusing on the World Summit for Social Development was printed in the first quarter of 1995 and presented at the Summit. A second issue was printed in 1995 and centred on future directions of research and training after the Fourth World Conference on Women.

73. During 1995, INSTRAW began work on a CD-ROM disk which will contain the full texts of its core library in English. Utilizing this new form of technology should broaden the outreach of the Institute's publications. The project was widely promoted at the Fourth World Conference on Women.

74. INSTRAW participated in an ad hoc meeting of the Joint United Nations Information Committee on 15 and 16 February 1994 at which it was decided that a joint travelling exhibition would be prepared as part of a system-wide information programme for the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. INSTRAW is recognized as one of the sponsors of this exhibit. The exhibition was inaugurated in the main lobby of the United Nations Secretariat building in New York and presented to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen) and later to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing).

75. The Institute also participated, together with other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, in the International Information Fair, organized by the Department of Public Information and held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

IV. THE INSTITUTE'S ADVOCACY NETWORK

76. By its nature, mandate, statute and operating principles, INSTRAW relies on networking in innovative ways and implements its work through cooperative arrangements with United Nations programmes, organizations and agencies and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and women's organizations and groups. An important element in the Institute's methods of work is its network of focal points and correspondents at the national level. There are now 40 INSTRAW focal points in countries all over the world. Several activities such as the organization of seminars and meetings have been implemented in collaboration with these focal points.

77. The Institute considers that networking and mainstreaming have been instrumental in enabling it to carry out its mandate in research, training and information on gender, women and development in an innovative and multidisciplinary manner; to increase the scope of its operations; to optimize the use of its limited financial resources; and to attain greater outreach and impact.

78. Networking and mainstreaming have been and will continue to be the main pivots of the Institute's mode of operation. The Institute will continue in its efforts to seek new ways and strategies to strengthen its mode of operation.

V. FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE INSTITUTE

79. INSTRAW is funded solely from voluntary contributions. Since its establishment, the Institute has received pledges from 72 Member States, both developed and developing countries. Voluntary contributions received by the United Nations Trust Fund for INSTRAW for the biennium 1994-1995 as of the date of the present report, including specific contributions for special projects and programmes, amount to $2,180,273. This amount is expected to increase before the end of the biennium through additional contributions to be received from those donor countries that have pledged and have not yet paid their contributions.

80. The Institute wishes to express its appreciation to those Member States that have steadily supported INSTRAW by their contributions to the Trust Fund since its inception.

81. Furthermore, in keeping with the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning autonomous institutes of the United Nations, INSTRAW has attained a financial reserve of $1 million, which should enable the Institute to meet any shortfall in expected pledges, thus ensuring continuity in its work.

82. INSTRAW is responsible for providing administrative support to all its programmes. This includes financial management and budgetary controls, monitoring of financial commitments, recruitment and personnel administration, procurement and other activities, within the delegation of authority granted by the Secretary-General. Despite the constraints faced by external circumstances and insufficiency of qualified Professional staff, INSTRAW has successfully carried out the biennium programme and has a sound financial base.

83. The need for sustained funds that would permit the Institute to carry out its mandate of independent research, the results of which would feed into policy formulation and coordination on the one hand and operational activities on the other, cannot be underestimated. If the Institute is to continue to be effective in its mandate of research, training and information on issues related to women and development, the financial commitment of Member States to the Trust Fund must be ensured.

VI. CONCLUSION

84. INSTRAW's activities are an integral part of the overall efforts of the United Nations to combat poverty, which has a strong negative impact on the lives of women world wide.

85. The World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women reinforced the importance and urgency of the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and highlighted the linkage between the empowerment of women and the progress of women as a whole. A reinforced commitment to research and training is fundamental to further progress towards sustainable socio-economic development and advancement of women.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ For the statute of the Institute, see A/39/511, annex.

3/ R. Mehta et al., 1995. INSTRAW/SER.B/51.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.III.C.3.

5/ INSTRAW/SER.B/44.

ANNEX

Publications and public information material printed by the Institute, 1994-1995

Compilation of Statistics on Women in the Informal Sector in Gambia. Report of the National Training Workshop, Kombo Beach, 8-16 May 1991. 160 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1994.

Women, Water Supply and Sanitation. Training Seminar, Georgetown, Guyana, 31 January-4 February 1994. 85 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW December 1994.

Women, Water Supply and Sanitation. National Training Seminar, Windhoek, Namibia, 20-25 November 1994. 59 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW March 1995.

Training Users and Producers in Statistics on Gender Issues in the South Pacific. Seminar, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, 30 November-3 December 1992. 120 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW May 1995.

The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators. Joint publication of INSTRAW and the Statistics Division of the United Nations. 80 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1993. Reprinted 1995.

The Migration of Women: Methodological Issues in the Measurement and Analysis of Internal and International Migration. 120 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1994. ISBN No. 92-1-127005-7, Sales No. E.95.III.C.1.

Measurement and Valuation of Unpaid Contribution: Accounting Through Time and Output. 124 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995. ISBN No. 92-1-127007-3. Sales No. E.95.III.C.3.

Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, Modular Training Package. INSTRAW in cooperation with the International Training Centre of ILO, April 1995. ISBN No. 92-1-127006-5. Sales No. E.95.III.C.2.

Content-Discontent: Towards a Fair Portrayal of Women in the Media. 60 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995.

Gender Concepts in Development Planning, Basic Approach. 35 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995.

Credit for Women: Why is it so important? 119 p. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW-ICRW 1995.

INSTRAW 1995. Santo Domingo: INSTRAW 1995.

INSTRAW News No. 20, first semester 1994. Women and the Family.

INSTRAW News No. 21, second semester 1994. Women and Time.

INSTRAW News No. 22, first semester 1995. The Social Summit: A Gender Perspective.

INSTRAW News No. 23, second semester 1995. Women and Development: Future Directions.

Flyer: 1440 Minutes in a Day: Knowing how a woman spends each one reveals how much of her productive contribution is concealed. Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: INSTRAW and its Water Programme in Africa, Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: Women and Energy, Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: What do we know about women's migration and the plight of women migrants?, Santo Domingo, 1994.

Flyer: Communications Panel - "Media and Communications for the Advancement of Women: Models for a Global Reach", NGO Forum on Women, 7 September 1995.

Brochure: INSTRAW Workshop/Panels, NGO Forum on Women, Beijing, September 1995.

Brochure: INSTRAW Special Event Panels, Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995.

Brochure: Women and the UN, 1945-1995. INSTRAW and UNIFEM, New York, 1995.

Poster: Keys to Gender Equality. INSTRAW/Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, New York, 1995.

Poster: Women: United for a Better World, Fourth World Conference on Women, INSTRAW, 1995.